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#00000 - ULTRA BLACK

Volume 01 Cell:01

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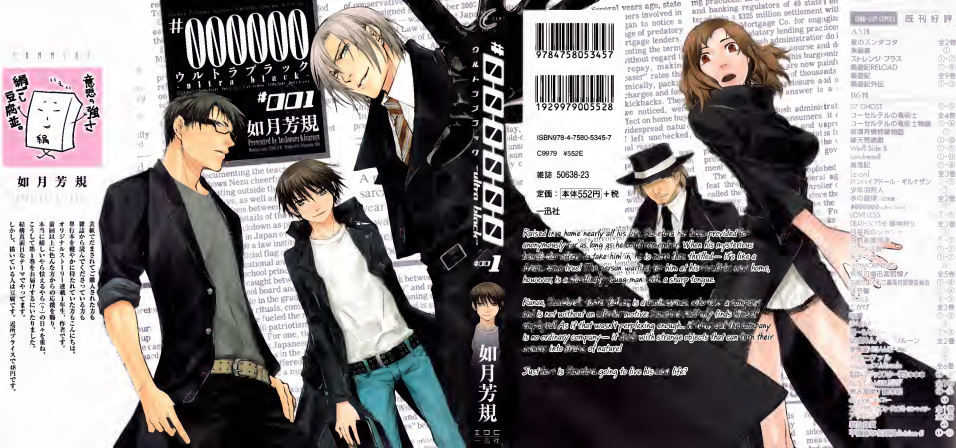
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ウルトラブラック
BLACK
#001
如月芳規
Presented by Yoshinori Kisaragi
Bunka-sha, 2005 ¥ Yoshinori Kisaragi, 2005
#000000
ウルトラブラック
#001
如月芳規
一迅社
Raised on a home nearly off the grid, Shuichi has been completely unsocialized for as long as he can remember. When his mysterious grandfather passes away, he takes him in. He is soon lost, thrilled— life is a brand new adventure! Then a person waiting for him at his new home, becomes a whole lot more than that, all at once.
Kanata Tsunashi, a new face, is a quiet, serious, reserved, and mature girl. She is not without an inviting nature. Shuichi finds himself strangely drawn to her. As if that wasn't perplexing enough, Kanata and her company is no ordinary company— all have with strange objects that are with their owner. Into the world of nature!
What's in store for Shuichi going to his house like?
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The Antithesis of a Black Flower Garden

Chapter 1

- Sanetoine, a black rose may have thorns, but it is still magnificent -

LET'S PLAY A GAME IN WHICH YOU CALL ME OLDER SISTER

MY NAME IS SANE-TOINE!

I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE FROM NOW ON.

OJI-SAMA!

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME,

AAAH!

HOW RUDE! WE ARE ONEE-SAMA!

Jeez... that hurt!

STILL, THE CAPITAL SURE IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE THERE ARE EVEN BEARDED LADIES HERE!

DARN! I ANGERED THE "ONEE-SAMA" BY JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!

ZERO-SUM COMICS

08080808

ウルトラブラック -ultra black-

#001

如月芳規

YOU CAN'T TOUCH A ROSE IF YOU FEAR ITS THORNS

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

BOSSETTE AND OL' MANIELLE ARE SO DIFFICULT TO HANDLE!

WHAT A MARVELOUS PERSON!

NEIATH, A YOUNG NOBLE FROM THE BLACK ROSE HOUSE.

MY NAME IS...

MENAC ING

YOU CAN REST EASY NOW THAT WE'RE HERE.

AND THIS IS MY HANDMAID, INUHIKONNE.

SANE-TOINE?!

BEYOND EDEN...

Waaah!

A BOTTOMLESS HELL COMES INTO VIEW...

To be continued...

OOOH! I FEEL AS THOUGH MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BURST!

I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE HERE...

SOB SOB

ALL I DO IS CRY, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.

CHEER UP, SANE-TOINE!

BECAUSE I'LL ALWAYS ...

BE WATCHING OVER YOU!

SORRY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START. WHAT THE *HELL IS THIS?*

A wig?

Don't pull it.

DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO OUT-OF-CHARACTER ALL OF A SUDDEN. AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?

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-ultra black-
Yoshinori kisaragi

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ウルトラ ブラック

-ultra black-

#001

- I N D E X -

cell:01 Continuation of the Dream Part 1
003
cell:02 Continuation of the Dream Part 2
041
cell:03 Cynical Morning
073
cell:04 Alone
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149

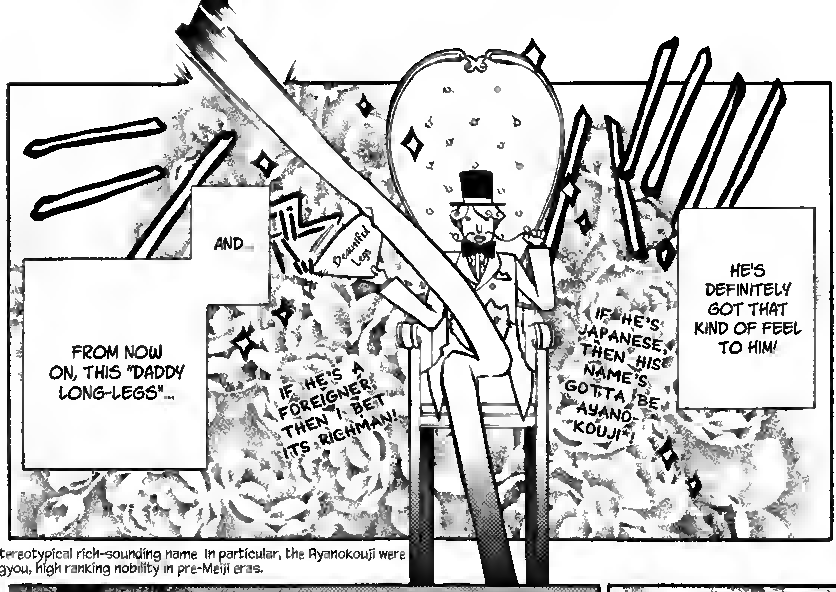
I'LL BE STARTING A NEW LIFE
FROM NEXT WEEK ONWARDS,
cell 01 " Continuation of the Dream Part 1 "
I WILL BE LEAVING MY FORMER ENVIRONMENT BEHIND
HOLD THEM OFF!
GOT IT.
I'LL...
WHAT I MEAN BY THAT IS...
AND MY HORIZONS WILL EXPAND
DO YOU RECALL SEEING THIS?
CAN YOU READ?
WELL...
DURING THE SPRING OF THE 13TH YEAR OF MY LIFE...
DUDE~ JUST BRING IT OUT ALREADY!
LOOK, THIS IS YOUR SALES CONTRACT AGREE-MENT.

I LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT...
EVEN IF YOU DON'T RECALL, WE'LL STILL BE TAKING THIS.
IN ACCOR-DANCE
WITH OUR COMPANY'S "CONTRACT".
THINGS AS OBVIOUS AND NATURAL AS THIS...
ARE ACTUALLY NOT THAT "OBVIOUS" OR "NATU-RAL".
AND...

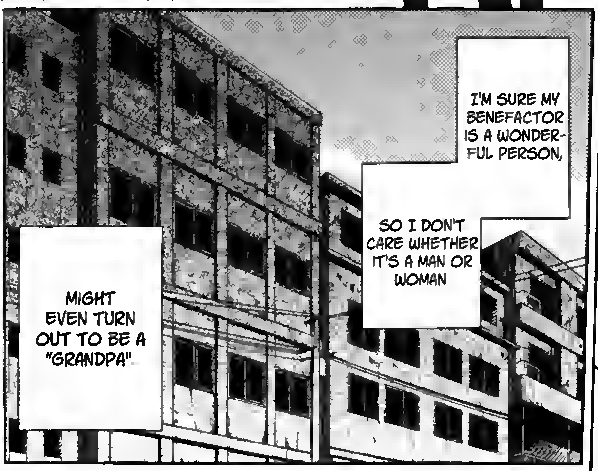
FINALLY... THE DAY HAS ARRIVED
I'M SO SORRY YOUR BENEFACTOR COULDN'T BE HERE!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
I'M SURE YOUR BENE-FACTOR WILL BE RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT.
...
NO, IT'S FINE!
I REALLY DON'T MIND!
I STILL
HAVEN'T REALIZED ANYTHING...

cell:01 "Continuation of the dream Part 1"

IT'LL TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR, SO FEEL FREE TO TAKE A NAP.
I WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE, BUT FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER,
I'VE HAD A BENEFACTOR WHOSE NAME, FACE, AND EVEN GENDER HAVE REMAINED UNKNOWN TO ME.
THAT PERSON MUST BE...
HAAAAH
...FILTHY RICH!


HE'S DEFINITELY GOT THAT KIND OF FEEL TO HIM!
IF HE'S JAPANESE, THEN HIS NAME'S GOTTA BE AYANO-KOUJI*!
Beautiful Legs
IF HE'S A FOREIGNER, THEN I BET ITS RICHMAN!!
AND...
FROM NOW ON, THIS "DADDY LONG-LEGS"...

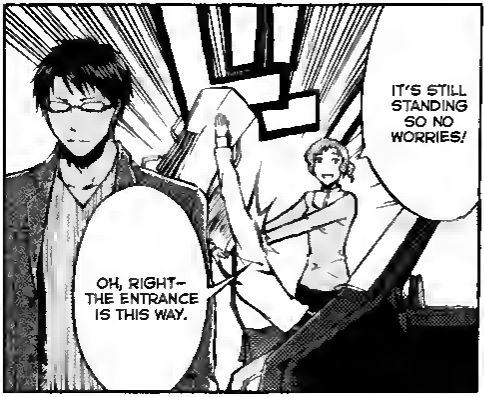
*Stereotypical rich-sounding name. In particular, the Ayanokouji were kugyou, high ranking nobility in pre-Meiji eras.

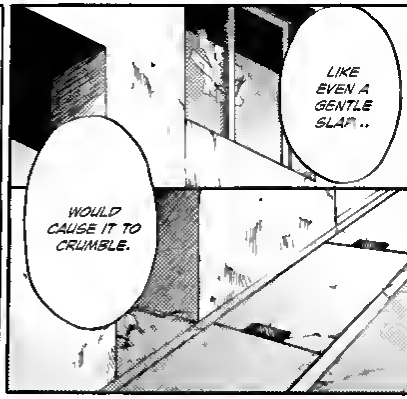


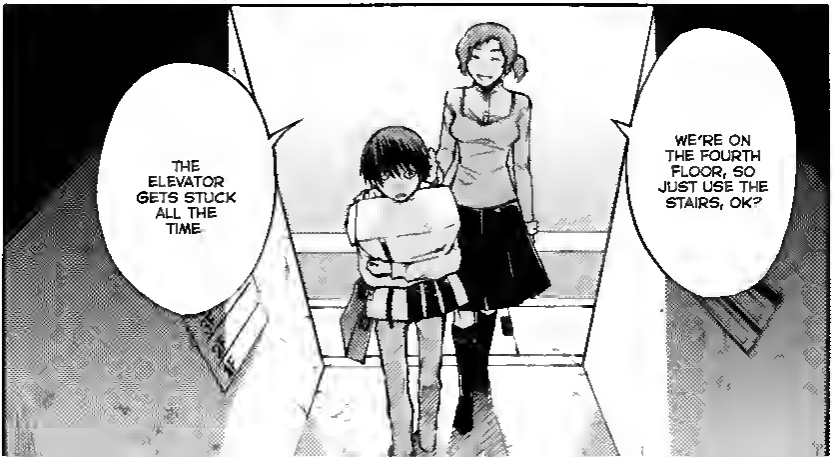
ERR...
WE'RE HERE!
SO THAT I CAN REPAY HIM FOR HIS KINDNESS.

THAT'S... HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...
I GET THE FEELING THIS PLACE ISN'T MEANT FOR HUMAN HABITATION...

DID WE GET LOST?
This way!
OF COURSE NOT, SILLY!
FROM NOW ON, THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME.


IT'S STILL STANDING SO NO WORRIES!
OH, RIGHT- THE ENTRANCE IS THIS WAY.


LIKE EVEN A GENTLE SLAP...
WOULD CAUSE IT TO CRUMBLE.


THE ELEVATOR GETS STUCK ALL THE TIME
WE'RE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, SO JUST USE THE STAIRS, OK?

DEAR DADDY LONG-LEGS..
PLEASE TELL ME.
THAT YOUR HOUSE ISN'T HAUNTED!
WHY IS IT SO DARK HERE, EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?
RATTLE
COME IN.
EEK!

UM...
?
THE FEELING'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I GOT BY LOOKING AT THE OUTSIDE, BUT...
HOW IS IT?

DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU ANY-THING?
HUH? NO WAY!
No...?
THEY FROZE?
IS THIS SOME SORT OF COMPANY?
...
AH...
THAT IDIOT!
SNAP
No.
DIDN'T SOMEONE COME TALK TO YOU BEFORE WE CAME TO PICK YOU UP?

THAT I WAS ADOPTED...?
YES.
VVOOOH???
NOW I GET IT! NO WONDER IT FELT SO WEIRD!
OH! I'M FUKI!
HMMM... I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF. RIGHT.
ME, TOO!
bow
I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE FROM HERE ON OUT!
FUKI SANETORA.
KARASUMA NEI.

WHO LOOKS LIKE AN ALIEN, IS OUSAKA INUHIKO.
AND THAT GUY OVER THERE...
WAI~... UM, WHAT DOES THAT...?
...OR SOME-THING
PLAYMATES... NO, NO, WORK-MATES!
YOUR FOSTER PARENT AND WE ARE, IN A NUT-SHELL...
C-COMING!
SANETORA-KUN'S ROOM IS THIS WAY.
HEY,
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO HEAD OUT.
OOPS! I FORGOT!
LOOKS LIKE A DESK AND BED HAVE ALREADY BEEN BOUGHT...
OH.

I'VE NEVER HAD SOMETHING LIKE A BEDROOM ALL TO MYSELF.
NO...
THIS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
WELL, WE'LL JUST LET YOU PICK THE REST OF YOUR FURNITURE.
...EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO WAIT AND ASK YOU BEFORE GETTING THEM.
SO I DO HAVE ONE MY VERY OWN ROOM

THERE'S EVEN A PLACE FOR ME TO SLEEP.

ARE YOU GOING OUT?
TODAY'S A BIT HECTIC, BUT I DON'T THINK I SHOULD LEAVE YOU HERE ON YOUR OWN.
NE!
COMING!

I HATE TO ASK, SEEING AS HOW YOU JUST GOT HERE, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME.
GRAB WHATEVER YOU NEED, THEN LEAVE YOUR BAGS IN THE ROOM AND MEET ME ME AT THE ENTRANCE.
LATER!
thump
CLACK CLACK CLACK
SLAM
-ERR... I ALSO BOUGHT THAT, RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT!
KILLY!

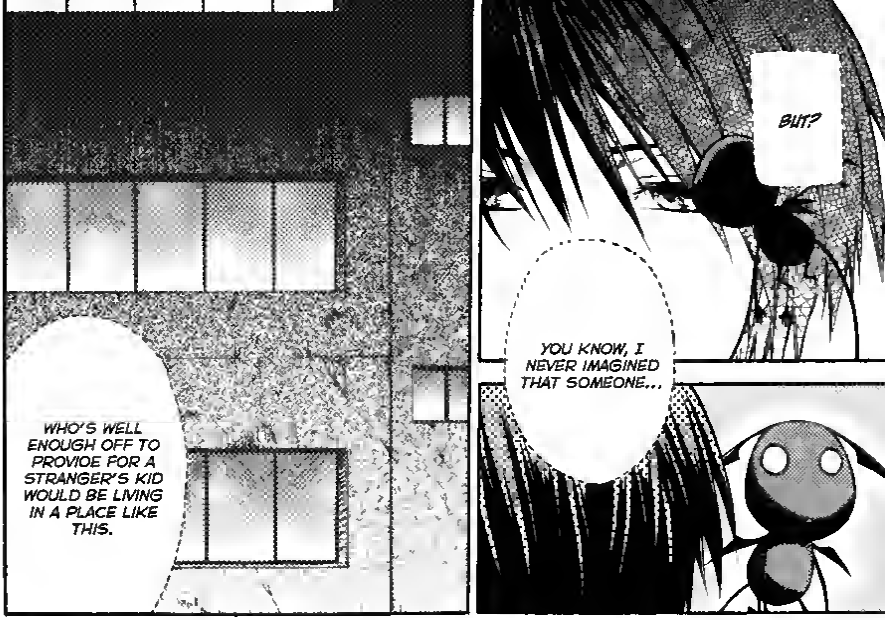
BOING
OOZE
HIHEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
POP!
KILLY...?

GYAAA AAAAA AAH!
KILLY YYYYY YY!!!
BE MORE CAREFUL!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I-I TRIPPED...
AHA HA HA HA HA!

blub blub
Prediction
BUT IF A CREATURE LIKE MYSELF GETS DISCOVERED,
IT WON'T END WITH ME IN A CIRCUS SIDE-SHOW— I'LL BE PRESERVED IN FORMALIN!
SINCE YOU'RE USED TO ME, YOU PROBABLY DON'T REALIZE;
FREAKIN' RETARD!

AH, YEAH, BUT...
SO? WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED?

YOU SCREAMED, TOO!
Ke ke ke ke ke ke ke ke!
I'M AN IMPORTANT GUY, SO I CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING!


WHO'S WELL ENOUGH OFF TO PROVIDE FOR A STRANGER'S KID WOULD BE LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
YOU KNOW, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SOMEONE...
BUT?

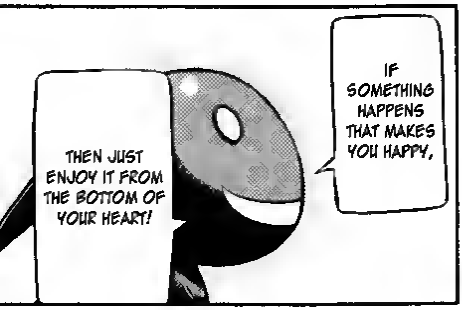
I DON'T FANCY THAT KIND OF VIOLENT DEVELOPMENT!
Tee hee.
whisper
SO YOU WERE SOLD, HUH.

UMM... IT'S JUST NOT WHAT I EXPECTED, IS ALL.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS.
WHAT'S UP? UNHAPPY ABOUT SOMETHING?
I'M JUST KIDDING—!

NO, NOT SO MUCH "UNHAPPY" AS...
UNEASY...
I GUESS.
MY DADDY LONG-LEGS WAS A MYSTERIOUS PERSON.
HE GAVE ME PRESENTS FOR MY BIRTHDAY AND AT CHRISTMAS.
AND NOT JUST ME— HE SENT GIFTS FOR EVERYONE AT THE ORPHANAGE.
AND SO I ALWAYS THOUGHT MY BENEFACTOR WAS WEALTHY.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THOUGH HE WAS KNOWN AS MY DADDY LONG-LEGS,
IN REALITY, HE WASN'T JUST MINE; HE WAS EVERYONE'S.

SANETORA.
YEAH?
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO COME LIVE HERE?
Ugh.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I FEEL TERRIBLE!
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVERWORKING HIMSELF TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD THOSE PRESENTS!
A CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A STRANGER'S KINDNESS WITH NO QUALMS, YOU KNOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE A KID WOULD HAVE THE MEANS TO REPAY IT IMMEDIATELY, ANYWAY
BUT...
SANETORA...
Smack!

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, WORDS LIKE "BUT" AND "THOUGH" ARE AKIN TO A CURSE.
THEY'LL MAKE YOUR HEART WAVER.


IF SOMETHING HAPPENS THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY,
THEN JUST ENJOY IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART!

AM I... OVER-THINKING THIS SITU-ATION?
YUP.

HMMM? I STILL DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY BENEFACTOR IS.
DOESN'T MATTER SINCE YOU'LL MEET SOON, RIGHT?

THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO REPAY THEIR KIND-NESS.
YEAH.

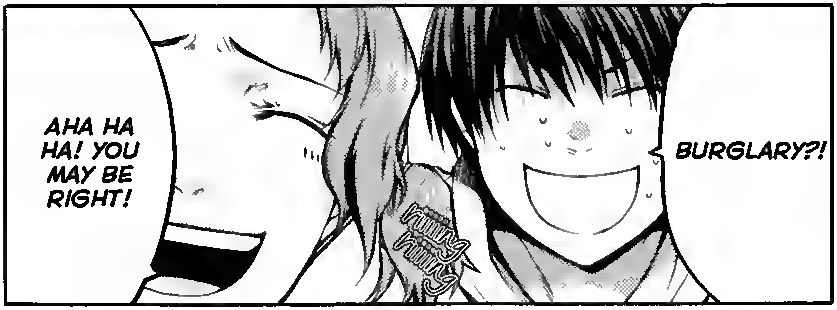
YEAH.
FOR NOW,
YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF TO THE FULLEST!
ISN'T THAT BETTER, SANETORA-KUN?
YEAH!
TODAY'S BEEN A GREAT DAY!
SANE-TORA-KUN?
COMING!
PANIC
PANIC
WHO'S THAT? A WOMAN?
SANETORA, YOU'RE SO DIRTY-!
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT...?

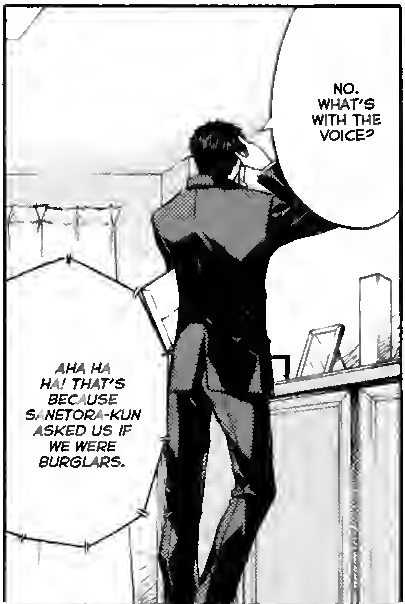
OKAY. THANKS, KILLY!
JUST SAYIN'~ ANYWAY, I'M HEADING BACK!
FEEL FREE TO CALL ME FOR WHAT-EVER.
AND IF I FEEL LIKE IT, I'LL EVEN ANSWER!
TAP
JUST MAKE SURE NO ONE'S AROUND WHEN YOU CALL FOR ME!
GOT IT!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE MY MOST TREASURED FRIEND.
H-HI...

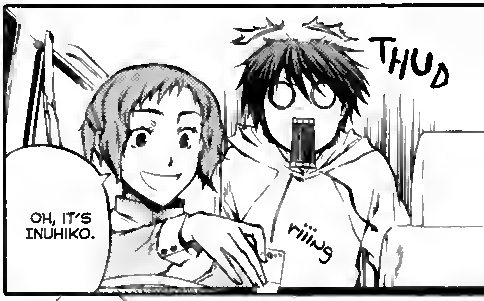
OH! HERE HE COMES...
THUD THUD THUD
SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG!
LET'S GO.
pause
HUH? HE CHANGED HIS OUTFIT.

HM?
UM...
RATTLE
WHOSE HOUSE IS THAT?
RATTLE
RATTLE
JUST SOMEBODY'S.

CREAK
PLEASE CORRECT ME IF I'M MISTAKEN,
BUT ISN'T THIS ...


BURGLARY?!
AHA HA HA! YOU MAY BE RIGHT!

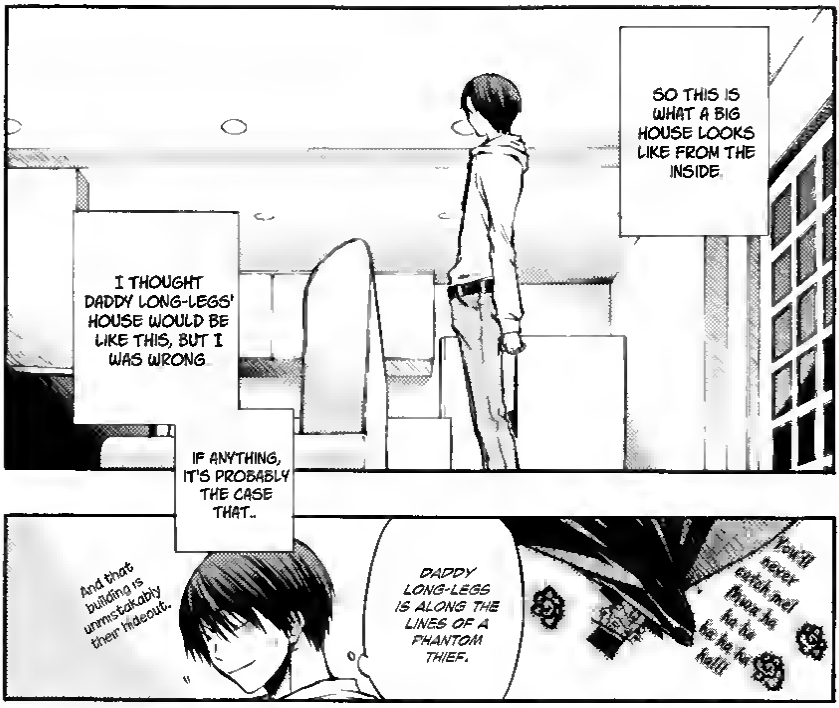

NO. WHAT'S WITH THE VOICE?
AHA HA HA! THAT'S BECAUSE SANETORA-KUN ASKED US IF WE WERE BURGLARS.


THUD
OH, IT'S INUHIKO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
UOOOOH?!

HEY...
twitch
SO I TOLD HIM WE WERE.
Kyaa~
HE CAN'T EVEN TAKE A JOKE!
WHO THE HELL'S A BURGLAR?!
FU FU FU~
beep
WHAT DID HE SAY?
WELL...
AT THIS RATE,
I'LL REALLY END UP BEING TAKEN FOR A PETTY THIEF!
SANETORA-KUN.
WHAT SAY YOU JOIN OUR BAND OF BURGLARS?

Laughing along.


SO THIS IS WHAT A BIG HOUSE LOOKS LIKE FROM THE INSIDE.
I THOUGHT DADDY LONG-LEGS' HOUSE WOULD BE LIKE THIS, BUT I WAS WRONG.
IF ANYTHING, IT'S PROBABLY THE CASE THAT..
And that building is unmistakably their hideout.
DADDY LONG-LEGS IS ALONG THE LINES OF A PHANTOM THIEF.
You'll never catch me! Phwoa ha ha ha ha ha ha!!

HUH...?!
THE OWNER WILL BE BACK SOON, SO LET'S WAIT A LITTLE.

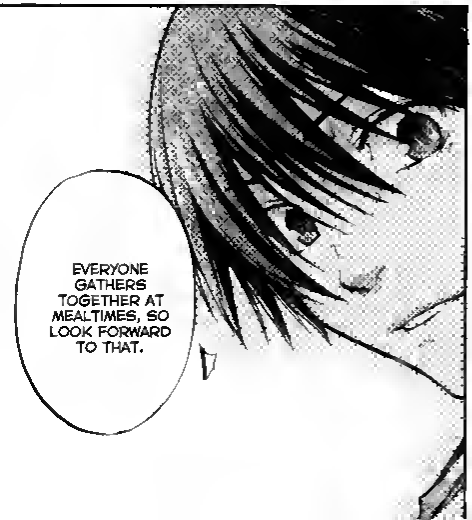
WE'RE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS.
WHICH MEANS- FROM NOW ON, I'M EXPECTED TO BECOME THEIR PARTNER IN CRIME, HUH.

SHOCK
...NEI.
PLEASE DON'T HOLD BACK ON MY ACCOUNT!
THAT'S WHAT I SEE AS A FIRST-CLASS BURGLAR!
THAT'S NO GOOD! BURGLARY SHOULDN'T INVOLVE BLOOD-SHED!

YEAH, SERIOUSLY— THIS IS GOING TO BECOME A REAL PROB-LEM.
NO, SERIOUSLY— I'M REALLY SORRY!
WOW!
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE AGAIN.

REMEMBER HOW YOU ASKED US YOURSELF, WHETHER OUR PLACE IS SOME SORT OF COMPANY?
YOU WERE RIGHT THERE. WE'RE NOT BURGLARS— AT LEAST, NOT EXACTLY.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN OFF THE BAT LIKE THIS.
SEEING FOR YOURSELF WOULD WORK BETTER THAN ANY EXPLA—
HOW-EVER!
NOW WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME!
Whoa.
SO, HAVE A SEAT!


EVERYONE GATHERS TOGETHER AT MEALTIMES, SO LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE FOR DINNER?
WHAT TYPES OF FOOD DO YOU LIKE, SANETORA-KUN?
Y-Y-YIKES...

JUMP
OOOH!
OOH? WHAT A MAGNIFICENT BACK ARCH*!
MY U-UNDERWEAR HAS WEIRD PATTERNS ON IT, AND IT WAS NEARLY SHOWING... THAT'S ALL.
Please don't mind me.
HUH?! NOW I'M REALLY CURIOUS!
*Back arch here is ebizori. It's a move from Kabuki, but apparently it's used to describe anything doing a back arch.
SO HE'S BACK AT LAST.
thud thud thud
YEAH.
thud thud
It should be okay now.
SCARY! IT'D BE SO NOT FUNNY IF I DROPPED THE BOOK HERE.

JUST SIT DOWN AND WATCH.
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
WHAT THE HELL...
ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!
JOLT
HE TOLD YOU TO SIT.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION. I'VE COME HERE ON BEHALF OF OUR BOSS, WHO IS CURRENTLY AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP.
THIS'LL GET DANGEROUS.
slide
DEBT COLLECTORS?
Sales Contact Agreement
THAT SPEEDS THINGS UP.
TSK...
OUSAKA FROM ROUGH WORKERS.
I AM...
THIS IS THE SALES CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR THIS PARTICULAR CASE.
Sales Contact Agreement

I DON'T HAVE THAT ANYMORE. GET OUT!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSI-BLE.
AS CONFIRMED DURING THE SIGNING,
THE GOODS WERE DUE FOR DELIVERY YESTERDAY.
I'VE COME TO YOUR HOME TO MEET WITH YOU PERSONALLY AND TAKE CARE OF THIS.
CANCEL IT.
IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE TO DELIVER,
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN THIS CONTRACT BE INVALIDATED.
FURTHER-MORE,
HA HA HA!
TRY IT IF YOU CAN...!
WE WILL RECOVER THE GOODS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY. I REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION IN ADVANCE.

<SFX: POP!>
I WON'T...
HAND IT...
OVER TO...
ANY...?!
POP?
POP? ...HUH?
IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING. IT'S... REGRETTABLE.